Reading Lists for M.A. Students
Department of English
Marquette University

The M.A. exam evaluates students' knowledge of the major figures, works, ideas, and traditions that shape literature and literary studies in two of three historical areas. To facilitate their study of these topics, students can use a number of resources, including course work, secondary criticism, and individual inclination. These reading lists constitute another such resource. Specifically, they outline the works and authors with which informed literary study must begin. They are therefore not by themselves the subject matter of the exam, nor is the exam limited to them. For adequate exam preparation, students should expect to read beyond these lists and to draw on all the resources mentioned above.

BRITISH LITERATURE, BEGINNINGS TO 1660

Medieval
Battle of Maldon (in translation)
Beowulf (in translation)
CHAUCER, Geoffrey: Canterbury Tales (selections), Troilus and Criseyde, Parliament of Fowls
Corpus Christi Cycle Plays (selections)
The Debate of the Body and Soul
Dream of the Rood (in translation)
GOWER, John. Confessio Amantis (selections)
Everyman
Havelok the Dane
King Horn
KEMPE, Margery: The Book
LANGLAND, William: Piers Plowman (B version)
LYDGATE, John: Siege of Thebes
MALORY, Thomas: Works (books 6-8)
Middle English Lyrics (selections from an anthology like Davies's, Duncan's, or Luria's)
The Owl and the Nightingale
Pearl
Seafarer (in translation)
Sir Bevis of Hamptoun
Sir Gawain and the Green Knight
Sir Orfeo
Wanderer (in translation)
Renaissance
BACON, Francis: Essays
CAREY, Elizabeth: Miriam, Fair Maid of Jewry
Cavalier poets: selected lyrics from one of the following--Thomas Carew, Richard Lovelace, Sir John Suckling, Edmund Waller
CAVENDISH, Margaret OR LANIER, Amelia: selected writings
DONNE, John: selected poems
FORD, John: 'Tis Pity She's a Whore
HERBERT, George: The Temple
JONSON, Ben: Volpone; selected poems
KYD, Thomas: The Revenger's Tragedy
MARLOWE, Christopher: one play
MARVELL, Andrew: selected lyrics
MIDDLETON, Thomas: Women Beware Women
MILTON, John: Areopagitica; Paradise Lost; selected short poems
MORE, Sir Thomas: Utopia
SHAKESPEARE, William: sonnets; one comedy; one history; one tragedy
SPENSER, Edmund: The Faerie Queene
SYDNEY, Sir Philip: The Apology for Poetry,Astrophil and Stella
WEBSTER, John: The Duchess of Malfi
WROTH, Lady Mary: Pamphilia to Amphilanthus
WYATT, Sir Thomas: selected lyrics

BRITISH LITERATURE, 1660 TO THE PRESENT

Eighteenth Century
BEHN, Aphra: Oroonoko
BOSWELL, James: Life of Johnson
BUNYAN, John: Pilgrim's Progress
BURKE, Edmund: Reflections on the Revolution in France
BURNEY, Frances: Evelina
CONGREVE, William: The Way of the World
DEFOE, Daniel: Robinson Crusoe
DRYDEN, John: selected poems, including "To the Memory of Mrs. Anne Killegrew," "MacFlecknoe," "Song for St. Cecilia's Day," "Absalom and Achitophel"
FIELDING, Henry: Tom Jones
GAY, John: Beggar's Opera
GRAY, Thomas: selected poems, including "Elegy in a Country Churchyard," "Odes"
HAYWOOD, Eliza: Love in Excess
JOHNSON, Samuel: Rasselas, "Vanity of Human Wishes," "Preface to Shakespeare"
LENNOX, Margaret: The Female Quixote
POPE, Alexander: selected poems, including “Rape of Lock,” “Essay on Criticism,”
“Moral Essays,” “Epistle to Dr. Arbuthnot”
RADCLIFFE, Ann: Mysteries of Udolpho
RICHARDSON, Samuel: Pamela
STERNE, Laurence: Tristram Shandy
SWIFT, Jonathan: Gulliver’s Travels
WOLLSTONECRAFT, Mary: Vindication of the Rights of Women

Nineteenth Century
ARNOLD, Matthew: the selections in Norton Anthology of English Literature
AUSTEN, Jane: either Emma or Pride and Prejudice
BLAKE, William: the selections in Norton Anthology of English Literature
BRONTE, Charlotte: either Jane Eyre or Villette
BROWNING, Elizabeth Barrett: the selections in Norton Anthology of English Literature
BROWNING, Robert: the selections in Norton Anthology of English Literature
BYRON, George Gordon, Lord: the selections in Norton Anthology of English Literature
CARLYLE, Thomas: selections in Norton Anthology of English Literature
COLERIDGE, Samuel Taylor: the selections, verse and prose, in Norton Anthology of English Literature
DICKENS, Charles: either Bleak House or Our Mutual Friend or Great Expectations
ELIOT, George: Middlemarch
HARDY, Thomas: the poems in Norton Anthology of English Literature plus either Tess of the D’Urbervilles, Jude the Obscure, or The Mayor of Casterbridge
HOPKINS, Gerard Manley: the selections in Norton Anthology of English Literature
KEATS, John: the selections, verse and prose, in Norton Anthology of English Literature
MILL, John Stuart: Essays on Bentham and Coleridge, On Liberty, Subjection
NEWMAN, John Henry, Cardinal: Apologia pro Vita Sua
PATER, Walter: The Renaissance
ROSETTI, Christina: selections in Norton Anthology of English Literature
SHELLEY, Mary: Frankenstein
SHELLEY, Percy Bysshe: “Prometheus Unbound” plus the selections, verse and prose, in Norton Anthology of English Literature
TENNYSON, Alfred, Lord: the selections in Norton Anthology of English Literature
WILDE, Oscar: The Importance of Being Earnest
WORDSWORTH, William: Prelude (1805/1850) plus the selections, verse and prose in Norton Anthology of English Literature
Twentieth Century
Amis, Kingsley: Lucky Jim
Beckett, Samuel: Murphy
Compton-Burnett, Ivy: Two Worlds and Their Ways
Conrad, Joseph: The Heart of Darkness
Ford, Ford Maddox: The Good Soldier
Forster, E. M.: A Passage to India
Fowles, John: The French Lieutenant’s Woman
Gordimer, Nadine: A Guest of Honour
Greene, Graham: The Power and the Glory
Joyce, James: Ulysses
Larkin, Philip: selected poems, including “Church Going,” “Myxomatosis,” “Toads,”
“Faith Healing,” “The Whitsun Weddings,” “Sunny Prestatyn,”
“Dockery and Son,” “[Waiting for Breakfast, While She Brushed Her Hair]”
Lawrence, D.H.: Women in Love
Lessing, Doris: The Grass Is Singing
Mansfield, Katherine: The Garden Party & Other Stories
Maugham, William Somerset: Of Human Bondage
Osborne, John: Look Back in Anger
Owen, Wilfred: selected poems, including “Strange Meeting,” “Greater Love,”
“Anthem for Doomed Youth,” “Exposure,” “The Show,” “Dulce et Decorum Est,”
“Futility,” “Disabled,” “Mental Cases”
Pinter, Harold: The Caretaker
Shaw, George Bernard: Heartbreak House
Stoppard, Tom: Arcadia
Synge, John Millington: The Playboy of the Western World
Woolf, Virginia: To the Lighthouse
Yeats, W.B.: Selected Poems (ed. M.L. Rosenthal)

AMERICAN LITERATURE

Pre-1900
BROWN, Charles Brockdon: Wieland
BRADSTREET, Anne: selected poems
CHESNUTT, Charles W.: selected stories from The Conjure Woman
CHOPIN, Kate: The Awakening
COOPER, James Fenimore: one of the Leatherstocking Tales (The Prairie, The Deerslayer,
The Pioneers, The Pathfinder, or The Last of the Mohicans)
CRANE, Stephen: The Red Badge of Courage or Maggie, a Girl of the Streets
DICKINSON, Emily: selected poems
DOUGLASS, Frederick: 1845 version of Narrative, and “What to the Slave is the Fourth of July?”
EDWARDS, Jonathon: “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God” and selections from
“Images or Shadows of Divine Things”
EMERSON, Ralph Waldo: “Nature”, “The American Scholar,” “Self-Reliance,” “The Poet,” and
“The Divinity School Address”
FRANKLIN, Benjamin: Autobiography
HAWTHORNE, Nathaniel: The Scarlet Letter and selected tales
IRVING, Washington: “Rip Van Winkle” and “Legend of Sleepy Hollow”
JACOBS, Harriet: Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl
JAMES, Henry: Portrait of a Lady and selected stories
MELVILLE, Herman: Moby-Dick and “Benito Cereno”
POE, Edgar Allen: selected poems, selected tales, “Philosophy of Composition” and
“The Poetic Principle”
ROWLANDSON, Mary: Narrative
STOWE, Harriet Beecher: Uncle Tom’s Cabin
THOREAU, Henry David: Walden
TWAIN, Mark: Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
WEBSTER FOSTER, Hannah: The Coquette, OR, Rowson, Susanna, Charlotte Temple
WHEATLEY, Phillis: selected poems
WHITMAN, Walt: “Song of Myself” and 1855 preface to Leaves of Grass
WINTHROP, John: “A Modell of Christian Charity”

Post-1900
ANDERSON, Sherwood: Winesburg, Ohio
BISHOP, Elizabeth: selected poems, including “The Man-Moth,” “The Unbeliever,” “The
Monument,” “The Fish,” “Over 2,000 Illustrations and a Complete Concordance,” “The
Bight,” “At the Fishhouses,” “Brazíl,” “January 1, 1502,” “Questions of Travel,” “The
Armadillo,” “Sestina,” “First Death in Nova Scotia,” “Filling Station,” “Some Dreams They
Forgot,” “In the Waiting Room,” “Crusoe in England,” “The Moose”
CATHHER, Willa: My Antonia
DREISER, Theodore: Sister Carrie
DUBOIS, W. E. B.: The Souls of Black Folk
ELIOT, T. S.: selected poems, including “Preludes,” “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock,”
“Whispers of Immortality,” “Sweeney Among the Nightingales,” “Gerontion,”
“The Waste Land,” “Hollow Men,” “Ash Wednesday,” Four Quartets,
“Tradition and the Individual Talent.”
ELLISON, Ralph: Invisible Man
FAULKNER, William: The Sound and the Fury, and one of the following: As I Lay Dying
Light in August, or Absalom, Absalom!
FITZGERALD, F. Scott: The Great Gatsby

HEMINGWAY, Ernest: In Our Times, The Sun Also Rises, or For Whom The Bell Tolls


HURSTON, Zora Neale: Their Eyes Were Watching God

LOWELL, Robert: selected poems, including “The Quaker Graveyard in Nantucket,” “Mr. Edward and the Spider,” “Skunk Hour,” “Waking Early Sunday Morning,” “For the Union Dead”

MORRISON, Toni: Song of Solomon or Beloved

NABAKOV, Vladimir: Lolita

O’NEILL, Eugene: Long Day’s Journey Into Night


POUND, Ezra: selected poems, including “The Return,” “In a Station of the Metro,” “Near Perigord,” “Apparuit,” “Hugh Selwyn Mauberley,” “Cantos I and 45,” “A Few Don’ts by an Imagiste.”

STEIN, Gertrude: Three Lives


WHARTON, Edith: The Age of Innocence

WILLIAMS, William Carlos: selected poems, including “Danse Russe,” “Tract,” “To Waken and Old Lady,” “Spring and All,” “To Elsie,” “The Red Wheelborrow,” “Young Sycamore,” “Poem (As the Cat...),” “The Locust Tree in Flower,” “The Yachts,” “Burning the Christmas Greens,” “The Dance (In Breughel’s...),” “Asphodel,” “That Greeny Flower.”

WRIGHT, Richard: Native Son